

dedicated years of his life to bring joy to the men and women of the Armed Forces and for whom the dedication of the new welcome center at the Bob Hope Village is named after. The village is a compassionate place providing a home for the surviving spouses of enlisted Air Force personnel.

It is my privilege, as Mr. Gates' Congressman, to honor this great American. Since 1968, Bob Gates has lived in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, near Eglin Air Force Base. Mr. Gates is the former mayor of Fort Walton Beach, a family man, and a man who served his country by piloting Bob Hope's troupe around the world during WWII, in efforts to raise troop morale. Mr. Gates was more than just a pilot for the comedian, but he was also one of his closest friends, a confidant, and a fishing buddy.

It was through Mr. Gates' healthy financial contribution that this new welcome center is made possible. Although, Mr. Gates altruistically mentions, "It was Bob doing 12 shows here for me that raised the money to get this all started. So our little town of Fort Walton Beach has a very close affinity to the Hope family, more so than any other town." Bob Gates has done wonders for our local community. He genuinely cares about surviving military spouses, shares memories of his past adventures, and spreads warmth and joy to all he meets.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Bob Gates for his leadership in Northwest Florida and throughout the world. He has dedicated himself towards helping the residents in our local community and for that we will be forever grateful. On this occasion, we honor one of America's greatest.

TRIBUTE TO THE SACRAMENTO OBSERVER

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to The Sacramento Observer. On October 11, 2003, the Observer will celebrate its 40th Anniversary with an evening of festivities and fellowship at the Sacramento Convention Center. As the people of Sacramento gather to celebrate this momentous occasion, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing one of America's leading newspapers a happy birthday and continued success in the future.

With the help of a few committed people, The Sacramento Observer came into existence on November 22, 1962 in a small building on the corner of 21st and X streets in Sacramento with the publishing of a four-page edition. Driven by the visionary leadership of Dr. William Hanford Lee, the publisher and founder of The Observer Newspapers, and an unyielding dedication to provide the highest quality publications and media services to African American audiences in Sacramento, The Sacramento Observer has not only become a local institution, but also the most honored black newspaper in America.

Today, The Sacramento Observer has grown from its inaugural four-page issue to an average-size weekly publication of approximately 80 pages. Only a few of the nation's

Black newspapers can match The Observer's record of publishing a publication the size of 300 pages or larger. The Observer's trademark supplements help inform the community on important historical, cultural, and contemporary issues.

The weekly Observer newspapers, as well as many of The Observer's special editions, are recognized as the most stylish and educational publications published anywhere. The Observer, recognized as "The Most Honored Black Newspaper in America," has received the coveted John B. Russwurm Trophy, the highest award in Black journalism, six times—more than any other Black newspaper in the nation. It is no wonder why The Observer is widely regarded as the most important black newspaper in America.

Playing major roles in the family-owned Observer's tremendous success in its first 40 years as a modern-day Black newspaper has been Dr. Lee's immediate family. Mrs. Kathryn Lee, and sons, Larry, Billy and Roderick (deceased), all have served in dedicated leadership roles at The Observer. In addition, there have been the hardworking staff members who have been instrumental in the growth of the newspaper. People like Joe Stinson, director of advertising sales; Observer co-founder John Cole, a retired Sacramento businessman; former editors and senior writers Wilbur Miller, Dr. Joe Dear, Rick Warren, Bill Davis, Shaw Ortiz, Mel Assagi, Larry Hicks, Kevan Carter, Mardeio Cannon, Curtis Haynes, Staci Bush, have all lent their considerable talents and ideas into making The Observer what it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate The Sacramento Observer on its first 40 years of unqualified success. As the friends and fans of The Observer gather to celebrate its achievements, I would like to especially thank the Lee family and all the people, who through their commitment and hard work have given the Sacramento African American a clear and powerful voice in our community. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing The Sacramento Observer continued success in all its future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE INAUGURATION OF COLLEGES NINE AND TEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the inauguration of two new residential colleges at the University of California, Santa Cruz. When this university opened in 1965 it chose to undertake a bold experiment in its college system, which today is hailed as a resounding success. The University of California, Santa Cruz serves as a national model for undergraduate education within the context of a major research university.

These residential colleges make it possible for students to enjoy the resources and academic vigor of a major research university within supportive living and learning communities. In addition, the colleges provide students with opportunities for social and cultural events, academic excellence including re-

search, internship programs and community-service and scholarships for academic achievement.

Colleges Nine and Ten are a welcome addition to the University of California, Santa Cruz, and their respective themes of International and Global Perspectives, and Social Justice and Community will serve as inspiration for students both today and in the future. This celebration to inaugurate the two new colleges is also a celebration of the positive effects higher education can have on issues such as social justice and international cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of the University of California, Santa Cruz in creating an excellent learning experience through the college system and I am proud to commemorate the inauguration of Colleges Nine and Ten.

RECOGNIZING THE LINFIELD FIRE COMPANY ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize members of the Linfield Fire Company on the 90th Anniversary of their company's founding.

Following a disastrous fire, which completely destroyed the Sanitary Company of America's foundry nearly a century ago, a group of concerned citizens met in Brownback Hall to discuss what the community could do to avoid similar disasters in times of emergency. During that meeting in October of 1913, the plans were laid down to form the Linfield Fire Company, whose purpose would be to protect people and property from any future tragedies. A year later, the Company purchased its first piece of equipment for \$600, a horse-drawn chemical apparatus with two sixty-gallon tanks. This established their permanent place in the community.

As the community has prospered over the years, so has Linfield Fire Company. It began with a saddler's shop for a station and a drawn wagon as its only apparatus. But in just four years, the Company had outgrown its humble home and made the necessary move into a larger building. Only six years later, in 1924, the Company again moved into another station which could house the growing amount of equipment they had and would continue to accumulate during the 61 years spent there. In 1985, Linfield Fire Company made one final move into the fire station that houses them today at 1077 Main Street.

The volunteers of this fine company deserve all the support that we may offer. They serve selflessly and tirelessly in order to protect their fellow citizens and, in the times of uncertainty we face today, their heroics are immeasurable. They are citizens just like you and I—teachers, students, doctors, lawyers, electricians, engineers, police officers. The list goes on and on—all willing to make sacrifices to ensure public safety. Before a member of this Company even sets foot into their first fire, they must undergo hours of training and, once completed, the education continues with advanced classes to learn vehicle rescue, firefighter rescue, pump operations and so on. As